



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**May 15, 2008**

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

**FROM:** Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Weekly E-Newsletter

### **IN THIS REPORT:**

- **Governor announces Governor's Cup Scholarship winners**
- **Fall Conference dates**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES GOVERNOR'S CUP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS (GO TO TOP)**

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter announced this week the 11 recipients of this year's Governor's Cup Scholarships to Idaho colleges and universities. The recipients were chosen from among more than 500 applicants by the Idaho Governor's Cup Scholarship Fund Inc.'s 12-member board of directors. Selections were based on each applicant's commitment to public service, academic achievement and extracurricular involvement. The number of scholarships awarded is based on the availability of funds.

The award is \$3,000 per year, renewable for up to four years, or three years for professional-technical programs. Here are this year's recipients, along with their high school and the school they plan to attend in the fall:

- Kathleen Momont, Caldwell High School, University of Idaho.
- Aaron Kirkham, Century High School (Pocatello), Idaho State University.
- Amanda Wilkes, Liberty Charter School (Nampa), Northwest Nazarene University.
- Courtney Gwinn, Highland High School (Pocatello), Boise State University.
- Valerie Pantone, Shoshone High School, University of Idaho.
- Ciciley Fox, Challis High School, College of Idaho.
- Javier Manzanares, Caldwell High School, Idaho State University.
- James Higley, Shelley High School, University of Idaho.
- David McElroy, Timberline High School (Boise), University of Idaho.
- Kabina Montgomery, Jerome High School, professional-technical, Idaho State University.
- Amy Kuther, Nez Perce High School, professional-technical, Lewis-Clark State College.

A reception honoring the recipients is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Friday, June 6, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Courtroom at the Borah Building, 8<sup>th</sup> and Bannock streets in Boise. Congratulations to the scholarship winners!



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### FALL CONFERENCE DATES (GO TO TOP)

Here is a list of upcoming fall conferences that are scheduled during the statewide in-service days on October 2-3, 2008. If you have a fall conference that you would like listed in the Weekly E-Newsletter, please e-mail information about the conference to Melissa McGrath at [MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov).

#### **“Walk the Talk--Literacy Teachers in Action”**

Idaho Council of Teachers of English/Idaho Council International Reading Association State Conference  
Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls  
October 2-3, 2008  
Contact: Brandon Bolyard at [Bolyard@tfstd.k12.id.us](mailto:Bolyard@tfstd.k12.id.us)

#### **“Our Sense of Place”**

The Idaho History and Social Sciences State Conference  
Boise High School in Boise  
October 2-3, 2008  
Contact: Russ Heller at [russ.heller@boiseschools.org](mailto:russ.heller@boiseschools.org)

#### **“Connecting Students Futures by Connecting Math and Science”**

Idaho Science Teachers Association and Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
Collaborative Fall Conference  
Bonneville High School in Idaho Falls  
October 2-3, 2008  
For more information: <http://www.stoller-eser.com/ista/conference.htm>

#### **“Partners Helping Students”**

Idaho School Counseling Association and the Idaho School Psychologist Association  
Collaborative Fall Conference  
Grove Hotel in Boise  
October 2-3, 2008  
For more information: [www.idahoschoolcounselor.org/conference](http://www.idahoschoolcounselor.org/conference).

### SUPERINTENDENT’S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the Victory Charter School dedication ceremony at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the State Board of Education meetings in Boise on May 22-23, 2008.

### WHAT’S NEW (GO TO TOP)



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- **Hispanic Education Summit** – The Idaho Summit on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Students will be held July 24-25, 2008 at Boise State University in Boise. This event will provide educators, community leaders, policy makers, and interested members of the public with a forum for networking and exchanging information about current education issues and needs within Idaho's Hispanic community. Registration is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available. Visit [http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/education\\_summit.asp](http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/education_summit.asp) to register online. If you have questions, please contact Lymaris Blackmon at the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs at (208) 334-3776.
- **Idaho Human Rights summer conference** – The Idaho Human Rights Education Center is accepting applications for its June 9-13, 2008 Summer Institute for Teachers (grades 5-12). The institute is designed to immerse teachers in content, pedagogy, and project-based learning that examines broader human rights issues and themes through the lens of the state's learning standards, mandate for citizenship education, and integration of character education/service learning. Applications are available online at [www.idaho-humanrights.org](http://www.idaho-humanrights.org) (click into Education) or by calling (208) 345-0304. Institute lodging, meals, and a participant travel stipend are funded by the Center; graduate credit is available through Boise State University.
- **Alternative Secondary School applications** – The applications for Regular Session Alternative Secondary School are due to the State Department of Education by **July 10, 2008**. These applications are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/AlternativeSchools/default.asp>. If you have any questions or need assistance in filling out the application, please contact Lori Howard at (208) 332-6902 or at [LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Civil Liberties Symposium** – The third annual Civil Liberties Symposium will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 19 and 20 on the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls. This annual symposium is one of the key events in helping to increase awareness and appreciation of civil liberties both from a historical and a present day standpoint. The event is a collaborative effort by the College of Southern Idaho, the Minidoka Internment National Monument, and Friends of Minidoka, an organization that promotes understanding and education about the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII. Pre-register for the conference now. The symposium costs \$60 for sessions and an additional \$30 for meals. Conference participation will also earn lower or upper division college credits from the College of Southern Idaho or Boise State University in Political Science, Social Science, Criminal Justice, or History for additional fees. Professional credits for History and Teacher Education are also available.  
  
For further information, please contact CSI History Professor and conference organizer Russ Tremayne at (208) 732-6885 or at [rtremayne@csi.edu](mailto:rtremayne@csi.edu). To register, call Lauri Watkins at (208) 732-6850 or Connie Stout at CSI at (208) 732-6800, or register online at <http://www.boisestate.edu> and click on "admissions."
- **Middle School Task Force regional meetings rescheduled** – The Middle School Task Force is conducting regional public meetings across the state, and the meetings in Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston are being rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. The task force held its first public meeting in Twin Falls on May 13. The task force is holding public meetings to discuss its current recommendations with the general public. The Middle School Task Force was created by the State Department of Education and State Board of Education in 2007 to ensure every Idaho student is prepared to be successful in high school and beyond. The task force will be in Pocatello at the Pocatello School District's board room on June 5 and in Idaho Falls at the Idaho Falls School District's board room on June 6. The meetings are scheduled from 5:30-7 p.m. Meetings in the Treasure Valley, Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston will be announced at a later date.



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Learn more about the Task Force at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/newsandpress/publications.asp>. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Joan MacMillan, Initiatives Coordinator at the Department, at (208) 332-6812 or [JEMacMillan@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JEMacMillan@sde.idaho.gov).

- **LAUNCH summer program cancelled** – The 2008 LAUNCH program by Idaho Business Week has been cancelled. The LAUNCH program, which was held during the summer, educated students about financial literacy and the fundamental elements of business development and management. The program has been cancelled this year due to a downturn in attendance during the summer months. During its 30-year history, the Idaho Business Week program graduated 11,500 students. For more information, please visit [www.launchidaho.com](http://www.launchidaho.com).
- **Idaho Congressional Award** – High school counsellors in Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce and Lewis counties can expect a visit from the Congressional Award Council of Idaho's executive director Cindy Jesinger during the week of May 19. Cindy is travelling across the state this year to provide schools with more information on the award program by U.S. Congress. The Congressional Award is a public/private partnership created by Congress to promote community service, foster character development and recognize achievement and initiative in America's youth, ages 14 through 23. To earn a Congressional Award, participants set and achieve individual goals in four diverse program areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration. The total cost to participate is \$10, but scholarships are available for those who cannot afford the \$10 registration fee. It is open to all high school students. For more information, visit <http://congressionalawardcouncilidaho.org/>.

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Nominate a Teacher of the Year** – It's time for you to nominate an Idaho teacher for Teachers of the Year. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education's Web site at [www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear). Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year. The Idaho Teacher of the Year is chosen from among the districts' nominees by a selection committee representing the state education leaders and lawmakers. Each school district and charter school may nominate one teacher. The Idaho Teacher of the Year also becomes a nominee for the National Teacher of the Year, a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers that is sponsored by Scholastic Inc. Completed applications must be submitted to the State Department of Education by **September 30, 2008**. For more information, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear) or contact Melissa McGrath at (208) 332-6818 or [MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov).
- **FAQs about the Classroom Enhancement Package** – The State Department of Education has created "Frequently Asked Questions about the Classroom Enhancement Package" to help answer common questions about the funding for textbooks, ISAT remediation and classroom supplies. Please visit the "Publications" page of the Department's Web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/newsandpress/publications.asp> to download the FAQs. The Permissible Uses Memo for the Classroom Enhancement Package is also available on the "Publications" page. If you have further questions, please contact Melissa McGrath at (208) 332-6818 or [MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Conference on teaching American Indian students** – Lewis-Clark State College has scheduled its 4th Annual Summer Institute for Effective Teaching of American Indian Students for June 23-26, 2008. The conference targets teachers, school administrators, certified staff, paraprofessionals, school board members and others who work with





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Native American students. The conference costs \$175 per person, and the deadline to register is **May 30, 2008**. For more information, contact Bill Hayne at (208) 792-2080 or [BHayne@lcsc.edu](mailto:BHayne@lcsc.edu) or Lisa Guzman at (208) 792-2743 or [LMGuzman@lcsc.edu](mailto:LMGuzman@lcsc.edu).

- **State purchasing vendor fair** – The Idaho Department of Administration’s Division of Purchasing is hosting the fifth annual Idaho Public Purchasing Vendor Fair from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **May 20, 2008** at the Holiday Inn on Vista Avenue in Boise. The fair is a full day of activities, including training seminars and about 45 vendor booths to visit. This event is free and open to all state and public agencies purchasing personnel, including those who work in public school districts and charter schools. This is an opportunity for purchasing personnel to interact with their peers, share information with vendors, gain additional product knowledge and discuss available contracts and services. For more information, please visit <http://www.adm.idaho.gov/purchasing/>.
- **Exceptional Children Conference** – The Idaho Council for Exceptional Children is hosting its annual conference October 1-2, 2008 in Sun Valley. This year’s conference theme of “Going for Educational Gold: Empowering both Students and Teachers” was chosen to reflect the spirit of the Olympics and the efforts of all stakeholders towards success for students. The breakout sessions will include presentations for special educators, general educators, parents, students and other professionals. To register, visit [www.idahoceec.org](http://www.idahoceec.org). If you have questions, please e-mail [Karen.gillette@boiseschools.org](mailto:Karen.gillette@boiseschools.org).
- **University of Phoenix master’s program** – The University of Phoenix Idaho Campus is accepting applications for the summer cohort for students interested in earning a master’s degree in administration/supervision and Idaho principal licensure. If you are interested, please contact Rikki Garlick [rikki.garlick@phoenix.edu](mailto:rikki.garlick@phoenix.edu) or (208) 631-6448.
- **Workshops for school bus technicians** – The State Department of Education’s Student Transportation office annual training for school bus technicians will be held July 15-17, 2008 at Boise State University. The workshop requires a registration fee of \$125, which will be reimbursable on your district’s annual reimbursement claim form under “travel expenses - registrations.” Please acquire the necessary support from your immediate supervisor and submit your registration form(s) online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Transportation/default.asp>. If you have questions, please contact the Student Transportation office at (208) 332-6851.
- **Workshop about children with autism** – Easter Seals-Goodwill is sponsoring a workshop on the P.L.A.Y. Project, focusing on High Functioning Autism in Children Ages 4-8 on May 29, 2008. The workshop will be at the Airport Holiday Inn in Boise. Cost is \$99. If you have questions, please contact Sandi Frelly at (208) 378-9924 or toll-free at (866) 848-0331.
- **INL Mini Grant recipients** – In support of the goal to improve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, INL has awarded more than \$70,000 in grants to teachers in grades K-12 across Idaho. The INL Mini Grant program gives teachers up to \$2,000 per proposal for classroom equipment, materials and professional development projects. This year, these grants will support 40 innovative STEM projects and programs in public and private schools. Visit [https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1555&mode=2&featurestory=DA\\_116888](https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1555&mode=2&featurestory=DA_116888) to view a list of the recipients.



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- **Oregon Trail Learning Experience** – The Idaho chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association invites all Idaho educators to participate in the 2008 convention of the Oregon-California Trail Association. Idaho has not hosted the convention since 1997, and the work within the state marking the trail, discovering forgotten journals and diaries, and research of all kinds has progressed considerably the last few years. The convention will be held August 4-9, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. University credit is available through Northwest Nazarene University in conjunction with the conference. Registration information is posted at [www.idahooccta.org](http://www.idahooccta.org) or you can contact Cathy Bourner with the Division of Tourism Development at (208) 334-2470 for more information.
- **Financial literacy curriculum and teacher training** – The NEFE Financial Planning Program is available to high school teachers of business, economics, family and consumer sciences, marketing, math and others. You can learn how to teach personal finance in your classes by using the free NEFE School Financial Planning Program Curriculum. Registration is free and includes a binder of teaching materials, lunch, snacks, door prizes, & more! Sessions are scheduled as follows: July 9 in Twin Falls, July 10 in Idaho Falls, July 15 in Lewiston, July 17 in Coeur d'Alene, and June 18 and 19 in Boise. For more information on summer dates, please contact: LaRaye O'Brien at the Idaho Credit Union League at (208) 343-4341 or [Lobrien@idahocul.org](mailto:Lobrien@idahocul.org); or contact Lyle Hansen, the University of Idaho Jerome County Extension Educator, at (208) 324-7578 or [lhansen@uidaho.edu](mailto:lhansen@uidaho.edu).
- **Teacher of the Month award** – Northwest Nazarene University and Peak Broadcasting are recognizing Treasure Valley teachers and the positive impacts they have on our children by presenting monthly a Teacher-of-the Month award on 630 KFXD All Talk Radio with Jon and Chris. To nominate a teacher, visit [www.kfxd.com](http://www.kfxd.com) and write a brief description on why he or she deserves this recognition. The awards will be announced on-air on the last Friday of the month. For more information, contact Northwest Nazarene University at (208) 467-8412.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **May 16, 2008** – The deadline to submit a Letter of Intent to Apply for fiscal year 2009 Safe Routes to School funds through the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). A combined \$1 million is available in Safe Routes to School funds for Idaho projects that encourage walking and bicycling to school next year. Schools, nonprofit organizations, state and local governments are encouraged to apply. Safe Routes to School funds may be used for projects that result in K-8 students walking and bicycling to school. For more information, please visit [www.itd.idaho.gov/sr2s](http://www.itd.idaho.gov/sr2s) under "How to Apply."
- **May 19, 2008** – Submissions for the political cartooning contest are due. The competition is open to all Idaho high school social studies students (grades 9-12). Finalists will be announced in September, and awards for the top three entries will be presented at the Idaho Council for History Education Annual Conference in October. Internationally syndicated, Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Mike Luckovich will present the awards. Awards: First Place - \$500 Second Place - \$200 Third Place - \$100. Please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/SocialStudies/default.asp> for submission guidelines.
- **May 30, 2008** – The deadline to enter the State Department of Education's music composition contest for students. Idaho high school and college students are eligible to enter. The winning composition will receive \$500. Learn more about the contest rules at <http://www.sde.state.id.us/newsandpress/mediacenter.asp>. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Peggy Wenner at (208) 332-6949 or [PJWenner@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:PJWenner@sde.idaho.gov).



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- **June 10, 2008** – The deadline to turn in submissions for Alternative Authorization. The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will be conducting a meeting to approve Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate district requests on June 10. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or [CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov). Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to this date. You can mail applications to:  
State Department of Education  
ATTN: Cina Oravez  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
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- **June 15, 2008** – Data for the school libraries survey must be submitted to the Idaho Commission for Libraries. The Commission is collecting annual statistics for the current 2007-2008 school year, the pilot year for an ongoing initiative. The data will help assess the correlation between Idaho's school libraries and student achievement. Visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/school-library-stats> to get started on the survey. If you have any questions, contact: Frank Nelson, [frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov) or Debby Wylie, [debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov) or call them at 800-548-6212.
- **July 1, 2008** – The deadline to apply for the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund's 2008 National High School Journalism Teacher Awards Program, which identifies outstanding high school journalism teachers with at least three years' experience who have done exemplary work in the 2007-2008 academic year. For more information, visit <http://www.newspaperfund.org/>.
- **July 10, 2008** – Applications for Regular Session Alternative Secondary School are due to the State Department of Education. These applications are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/AlternativeSchools/default.asp>. If you have any questions or need assistance in filling out the application, please contact Lori Howard at (208) 332-6902 or at [LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Aug. 7, 2008** – The Annual Superintendents' Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.
- **Aug. 8, 2008** – The New Superintendents' Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.